



**UNODA/IAEA Webinar**

**“The Tenth NPT Review Conference: Industry and  
Peaceful Applications of Nuclear Technology”**

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu  
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Webinar  
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Ambassador van Deelen,

Ambassador Zlauvinen,

Mr. Abdulrazak,

Distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you today. At the outset I want to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency for partnering with us to produce this event. But more broadly, I also want to thank the IAEA for its continued collaboration in supporting the NPT review process, especially in keeping up momentum during this period of uncertainty.

This webinar is a proactive example of what Secretary-General Guterres calls “inclusive multilateralism” – that is looking outside the traditional parameters of the international community to embrace new and different stakeholders. It reflects a growing understanding of the need for so-called “multistakeholder” forums. These forums bring together diverse groups of actors to engage in dialogue, provide fresh and different perspectives, and, of course, generate innovative solutions to pressing problems. They allow us to “cross-pollinate” different forums.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that, in today’s context of historic advances in science and technology, the progenitors of that technology need to be in the room when discussing its application, ramifications and regulation. While the development of nuclear energy was, initially, a State-led endeavor, the cutting-edge breakthroughs in areas such as power generation, human and animal health, water conservation and agriculture are being driven by innovations from the private sector. It is, therefore, important that we hear from industry how it believes it can help facilitate better implementation of the NPT.

Given the nature of the expertise on our panel, I am sure that we will hear about how the nuclear industry is helping to improve the conditions for many of the most vulnerable populations around the world. Pillar III of the NPT, which provides for access to and facilitation of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, is often overlooked but it is an integral element of the NPT’s success. Industry can play a central role in building on that success.

The intersection between international peace and security and sustainable development is becoming increasingly recognized. This is especially the case as more and more States promote a human-centered approach to security. The NPT is uniquely situated at the cross-roads between security, development and technological advancement. The Review Conference, therefore, presents an invaluable opportunity to strengthen States Parties' contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Industry can and should play an important role in realizing such an outcome, not least by identifying areas in which they can support and add value to the excellent work being done by the IAEA in facilitating technical assistance, regional outreach and educational programmes.

However, I also would like to use this opportunity to point out that the private sector's contribution to the NPT can go beyond peaceful uses. Industry can play a role in supporting pillars I and II as well.

Technological advances developed for civilian uses can have important applications for non-proliferation and disarmament. Take, for example, the possible applications of distributed ledger technologies, such as blockchain, for safeguards information management. Or the role that image recognition software or remote sensing technologies can play in verification of compliance. We need to sharpen our tools to prevent proliferation and take steps towards a world free of nuclear weapons in the face of mounting technological challenges.

Industry can provide important assistance in this regard, I believe, but we need to engage them and involve them in our conversations.

I look forward to hearing what our panelists and the audience have to say on these topics during the Q&A segment and I thank you very much for your attention.